

State of Michigan
State Board of Education

RESOLUTION

RETIRED AND SENIOR VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

WHEREAS, critical needs exist within our educational, economic, social and environmental systems and the growing older population represents a vast pool of human resources with diverse skills, experience and talents; and

WHEREAS, studies demonstrate that when volunteers and mentors are a facet of a quality educational experience, the attitudes, behaviors, and achievement of students are positively enhanced; and

WHEREAS, the State Board of Education's Policies on Integrating Communities and Schools, adopted in August, 2002, states that successful schools depend on the cooperation and support of community resources; and

WHEREAS, volunteer service is a proven strategy in health prevention for older adults, and the state of Michigan currently has 22 Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) projects, serving 40 counties; and

WHEREAS, statewide there are on average 10,000 RSVP volunteers at work throughout Michigan communities making a positive difference in areas such as literacy, truancy, the environment, health care, and arts and culture; and

WHEREAS, more than 90 percent of volunteers believe that their efforts make a difference to the program they volunteer for, and more than 97 percent of those volunteers believe it is important to give back to their community. Accordingly, the volunteers indicated the positive impact that their involvement in volunteering has had on their quality of life; and

WHEREAS, more than 1,500 agencies statewide benefit from RSVP volunteers, and the great majority of these agencies believe that RSVP volunteers have a positive impact on their programs; and

WHEREAS, in 2002, RSVP projects provided more than 35,000 hours of service in tutoring and literacy, 95,000 hours in education, and 163,000 hours in intergenerational service; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education supports and endorses the hundreds of RSVP programs currently in place across the state; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education supports all efforts and resources, particularly local, that draw public attention to the critical importance of community involvement and encourages the further development of volunteer programs that support our neighborhood public schools throughout Michigan.



Adopted August 28, 2003

Kathleen N. Straus, President

Thomas D. Watkins, Jr., Chairman